



**Delaware Bicycle Council
August 7, 2006
DelDOT Administration Building
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Fred Breukelman, Dept. of Public Health Representative
Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Tom Felice, DelDOT Representative
Thomas Hartley, Kent County Representative
Judith Jeffers, At-Large Representative
Doug Mills, Chair & New Castle County Representative
John Ray, Dept. of Education Representative

DelDOT Support Staff Present

Anthony Aglio, Bike/Ped Coordinator
Kari Glanden, Administrative Assistant

Members Absent

Don Carbaugh, New Castle County Representative
Sgt. George Heberling, DE State Police Representative
Harry Isaacs, Jr., Council on Transportation
Laura Madara, DNREC Representative
Lisa Moore, Office of Highway Safety
Amy Wilburn, At-Large Representative
Robert Witsil, At-Large Representative
Fritz Schranck, Deputy Attorney General, DelDOT

Guests Present

Terry Berl, Smyrna

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

Introduction of Guests

Doug called the meeting to order and requested members and guests to introduce themselves. Guest was Terry Berl from Smyrna who heard about the Greenway and Trails open membership. Also in attendance was John Ray from the Department of Education. Don Carbaugh and Amy Wilburn called to state they wouldn't be in attendance.

II. Old Business

Route 1 Third Lane Project Update

Anthony gave an update on what was going on with the project by stating the project is out for bid, construction is proposed to start in the fall and it will mimic the new traffic pattern from Rt.1-Rt.9 into Rt. 24 interchange. It is going to be a multi-use lane. The DelDOT Public Relations Department is going to be doing outreach with the businesses within the area.

Sussex County Bicycle Safety Fair Update

Anthony provided an update from the Sussex County Bicycle Safety Fair. There were approximately 500 people in attendance. He stated that was less than the previous year but it was a nice beach day and that may have deterred people from attending. There were more international students in attendance. Approximately 90 students came to the event. On June 14th there was a safe summer student event and there were approximately 50 International students at that event. At both events reflective materials, literature and helmets were given away.

Resort Area Bicycle Safety Checkpoints Update

There were eight checkpoints on Rt. 1 between five points and SR1/ Rehoboth Canal. There was one checkpoint on Rt.1A on Rehoboth Avenue. Two checkpoints were held in Ocean View, One in each Bethany and Fenwick. We gave away over 1500 helmets, reflective materials, and over 500 lights. Surveys were filled out by willing participants. Anthony is still working to compile the data from the surveys.

Doug asked if we got data for the numbers?

Anthony stated that while putting materials on the bicycles the willing participants were asked the survey questions. The checkpoints ran in 3-hour intervals at various times during the day. On the 10pm-2am checkpoints both times we ran out of materials and give-aways by 1am.

John Ray stated that All Saints Church in Rehoboth had a breakfast held at the church. The sponsors left a box of helmets at the church for the students. He asked if they could get about 100 more helmets.

Anthony stated that yes, Ocean Atlantic is trying to filter our helmets to other facilities and libraries. There are no extra small/small size helmets left.

Walt stated he is still seeing people ride without helmets.

Anthony stated that yes, the cyclists are fitted with the helmets but often they don't want to wear them. They complain that the helmets are too hot and that the helmets mess up their hair. The cyclists were also shown pictures of accidents but the people still didn't want to wear the helmets.

Fred stated that a law should be pushed for all ages to be required to wear a helmet.

Doug asked at what age?

Anthony stated 19-24, the police are enforcing the light requirement and citations have been given out for cyclists riding with out the lights.

John Ray asked if the citations are revoked if the cyclist provides a light before paying the ticket.

Anthony stated that no they still must pay. He also observed at the checkpoints more cyclists took the helmets where police were present.

Doug asked if a billboard or signage could be put up to help enforce the importance of the helmets?

Tom asked if there were any statistics at the beach for fatalities? If cyclists were wearing a helmet vs. not wearing a helmet, do we have a baseline for giving out the helmets to know if the message is getting out to people and how effective it is.

Anthony stated that so far there were three fatalities. He stated that it would be worthwhile to do a pilot and find out the answers and put information on a billboard.

Doug asked if this could be implemented this year? Is it too late in the season and where does this fall in the budget?

Anthony stated that July started a new fiscal year for funding.

Doug and Fred both asked if area businesses would donate to the campaign?

Anthony stated that the Office of Highway Safety has a campaign.

Checkbook Update

Anthony informed us that the checkbook is gone.

Fred stated that the billboards along the road book up two years in advance and are very costly. He stated that maybe we could “wrap” a bus with campaign information.

Fred stated that Beebe Hospital may help with billboard space.

Walt said that Joe Hudson would solicit to Beebe and Tom Burns for Kent County at Kent General/Bayhealth

Anthony stated that Beebe’s head trauma center has seen a decrease in head injuries since the helmet giveaways.

Doug stated that they needed to contact Beebe to see what they are willing to do. Also he will follow up with Walt at the next meeting.

Newsletter

Doug stated that he wants to work with Don to make the newsletter quarterly, give event updates, information of upcoming events, safety related pictures, etc. He would like to set up a timeline for deadlines for processing information.

Anthony stated that DOT works with a consultant. There is \$10,000. set aside for the newsletter. The distribution list is approximately 2,100 people but the population is 840,000.

John Ray suggested a school corner to be added to the newsletter.

SB 50 Kids Bicycle Helmet Bill

Doug stated that he didn’t know if the bill had passed or not.

Walt said he would check on the bill under bill tracking.

Other DelDOT Updates

Anthony stated that he received a request for SR 72 Ray Lane Pave & Rehab a cyclist from Newark asked for the shoulder to be re-established.

Safe Routes to School program will be having a walk to school day on Wednesday October 1st. Jeff Niezgoda is getting everyone together to coordinate the event. They will promote and highlight events. There will be a meeting held on August 17th in the Dover conference room at 10:00am at the Danner Farm Complex.

III New Business

Bike Month 2007

Doug brought up ideas for the Legislators Ride. He discussed that he wanted a committee for next years ride, he wants ideas on how to get more participation, tours of Legislative Hall, inquire with vendors to participate. He suggested using the Capital for a fun day of learning, food, and fun. He made a suggestion about having a stand or tent available to stretch before the ride. He asked for suggestions on how to get participants, schools to participate, press information, how to build to make it an all day event. He also suggested advanced ticket sales to have a firm idea of how many people to expect. He asked to have information promoting this on the web site. He asked at the next meeting for an agenda of activities, possible sponsors, vendors, entertainment, and any other ideas to be brought to the table.

Tom suggested that we have historic sties to stop at along the way, or when the ride is over along the green and also have key speakers at the event. He asked if Heritage Park could be used?

Anthony suggested checking with Kent County Tourism

Fred stated that we needed to add places that people could join in the ride if they couldn't participate in the total ride b/c if it being too long.

Doug asked if he meant a parade route type, have people come for one "parade lap" so they could participate at lunchtime. Maybe a public location for parking and a police escort for the riders.

Fred suggested asking the City of Dover's bicycle cops to participate.

Doug asked for people to send e-mails of ideas.

DE Cycling Center

Doug has been reaching to the center in Washington State, he sent around a copy of their web-page about the program that they have which teaches children to learn to ride bicycles, it has a bicycle recycling center; they teach how to properly fit helmets. Doug would like to establish a center here within the next five years. Doug would like a meeting set up with Parks and Recreation and an Architect to understand what would be needed for a location.

Terry suggested a place along the side of Rt.1 that people could gather and meet at the center.

Doug asked Terry if there was someone he could contact.

Walt asked how the towns would let us know that they had bikes to recycle.

Doug posed the question” When we get the bikes, what do we do with them, where do we store them, how do we get rid of them, are we liable, who will make the bikes road worthy?”

John Ray asked if DelDOT could provide a waiver for the bike recipients?

Anthony suggested if the bikes aren’t usable to donate them to pedals for progress.

Wilmington Wheelman Event 2008

Tom talked of the National Rally being held in Dover for 2008. Regular Wheelman cycles promote the Antique cycles.

Doug asked if we needed to help out for five days.

Ray suggested that we invite Wheelman to the next bike meeting.

IV Next Meeting

Doug stated that Chaz from DNREC would be coming to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 pm.